



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

February 22, 2011

April 21, 2011 – Pocatello, ID

Highway Safety Summit

Register online

www.highwaysafetysummit.com

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

I am very pleased to be reporting that our traffic deaths in 2010 have been reduced to 209. The number has been reduced. Several people died in relation to a traffic crash but the cause was something else. Sadly, they are still gone. So far in 2011, we only lost 6 people to traffic crashes in January. This compares to a 3 year average of 13. We hope this is a great start to a great year.

Here's a link to the National Safety Council's fatality report. This comes out monthly. You might want to save this as a favorite's link. <http://www.nsc.org/Pages/MotorVehicleFatalityReport.aspx>

For those agencies receiving grant funds from our office, the continuing resolution in Congress has resulted in delay in receiving federal grant funds. So far, we have received less than half of what we expected to receive for this year. As a result, distribution will be further delayed until more funds are made available to the states.

I have included summary reports from the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Emphasis Area Teams that reported progress at our February meeting. They are provided further down. It is most impressive to see the work being done to reduce traffic deaths by so many people who are addressing the different aspects of safety. Many thanks to all of you.

Have a great week.

Mary Hunter
Highway Safety Manager

Efforts to reduce traffic fatalities showing great results

Efforts to improve safety for motorists on Idaho roads could be paying off with motor vehicle fatalities continuing to decline.

Early numbers from ITD show 209 motor vehicle fatalities occurred in Idaho during 2010. This is down from 226 fatalities in 2009 and 232 fatalities in 2008. The lowest number of traffic deaths on record, going back to 1962, was in 1963 when there were 207 fatalities. The state's population has more than doubled since the 1960s.

Idaho motorists may be enjoying a safer drive because of ongoing highway improvements, more traffic enforcement, increased highway safety education activities, smarter driving choices and a commitment by highway safety professionals across the state to one day reduce motor vehicle fatalities to zero.

“We are very pleased that fewer people are being killed on Idaho’s roads,” said Mary Hunter, ITD highway safety manager. “These aren’t just numbers, they are family members and friends.”

While traffic fatalities tend to decline nationwide during economic downturns, Hunter said she believes that people making smarter driving choices and improvements to roads have contributed to Idaho’s reductions.

“Many partners have been involved in these ‘Toward Zero Deaths’ efforts to move toward our long-term goal of no one dying on an Idaho roadway,” Hunter explained. “Idaho’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan brings partners together from across the state to address Idaho’s most significant issues to improve safety and reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries.”

ITD has been using federal grants to support education and enforcement, including paid media campaigns and statewide law enforcement to encourage people to make smart driving choices and comply with Idaho’s motor vehicle laws.

The education and enforcement campaigns have focused on Idaho’s three biggest killers on state roadways -- impaired driving, safety restraint use and aggressive driving, particularly speeding.

From 2005 to 2009, Idaho’s DUI (driving under the influence) fatalities dropped from 100 to 74, aggressive driving fatalities dropped from 133 to 106, and unrestrained fatalities dropped from 136 to 90. Full analysis of 2010 crash data is still being completed.

In addition to outreach campaigns, ITD has also worked at engineering a variety of highway safety solutions:

- In northern Idaho, U.S. 95’s number of highway lanes were increased to four from Idaho 53 to Ohio Match.
- Maintenance crews in north-central Idaho have flattened slopes near highways to improve sight distance for drivers and installed guardrail.
- Southwest Idaho workers have reconfigured some intersections, including adding left turn lanes, improved signage at problem intersections, incorporated raised medians and curbing where appropriate and worked with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to reduce vehicle collisions with animals.
- Using improved methods, materials and performance metrics, southeast Idaho crews have reduced ice duration to about a third of its historic average, making winter travel safer and more efficient.
- Eastern Idaho drivers will find increased shoulder widths and additional lanes in some areas, and new turn bays and passing lanes added to problem roads. Crews have worked on flattening slopes, trimming trees and cutting brush to improve visibility for drivers.

One telling statistic appears frequently throughout Idaho’s crash data, Hunter said. Four out of five Idaho motor vehicle fatalities occur on rural roads outside cities of 5,000 or more.

“It is essential that road users always make smart driving choices, but when on rural roads it is even more critical,” she explained. “Emergency Medical Service providers and hospitals may be hours away.”

While available resources can have limits, ITD and its many Toward Zero Deaths’ partners are committed to driving down traffic deaths, serious injuries and economic losses to all Idahoans, Hunter said.

“Every Idahoan, not the person involved in the traffic crash, pays 85 percent of the medical costs associated with motor vehicle crashes through hikes in insurance premiums, higher taxes and increased charges for medical services,” she emphasized. “Every traffic death is a family tragedy.”

Published 2-18-2011

Child Passenger Safety Technician Training

Course ID: ID2011011249

April 18-21, 2011

Idaho POST Academy - Classroom D

Cost: \$75.00 (payment made online)

8:00am to 5:00pm each day

Students must attend the entire 32 hour course and pass written and hands-on testing. Registration must be completed and paid on-line prior to April 18, 2011. Go to <http://cert.safekids.org> to register.

For more information, please contact Alissa McKinley at mckinlea@slhs.org or lead instructor Jeannette Risch at jeannette@risch.org

*****This will be the only CPS Tech class we will be offering in 2011.***

Calendar of Events

Date	Event Description
March 11-21, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
March 27-29, 2011	LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE – Phoenix, AZ. www.lifesaversconference.org
April 2011	DISTRACTED DRIVING – National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Watch for upcoming events during the month.
April 7-18, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
April 21, 2011	HIGHWAY SAFETY SUMMIT – Pocatello, ID. Red Lion Hotel. 8:00am-5:00pm www.highwaysafetysummit.com to register. Contact: Lisa Losness lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8103
April 26-27, 2011	HIGHWAY SAFETY DAYS for Youth Idaho State Police Contact: Tecia Ferguson Tecia.ferguson@isp.idaho.gov (208) 884-7224, Find the event on FACEBOOK under Idaho State Police Safe Driving Days. Website http://www.isp.idaho.gov/cvs/index.html
May 3, 2011	ITSC (Idaho Traffic Safety Commission) – Spring meeting – Boise, ID. Location TBA
May 28-June 11, 2011	SEAT BELTS Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Lisa Losness, OHS GCO, lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8103
June 30-July 11, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
July 15-26, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467

SHSP Emphasis Area Team Reports

SHSP Oversight Meeting, Feb 9, 2011

Distracted Driving

Lisa Losness

A Distracted Driving Task Force has been formed and met January 18, 2010. The task force was created to discuss many of the SHSP issues regarding distracted driving. The task force agreed to put this year's distracted driving efforts toward the National Distracted Driving Awareness month in April. Efforts will include an already budgeted media campaign as well as earned media. There will also be a campaign ready to send out to school statewide which will bring awareness to distracted driving. The task force will meet again in March.

There are three bills before the legislature this year regarding distracted driving. S1025 would ban texting while driving, S1024 would ban the use of cell phone unless using a hands free device and HS141 would ban texting while driving and bank cell phone use unless hand free. Dave Carlson, AAA, is keeping a close eye on the bills.

Two cities, Twin Falls and Meridian, have created ordinances to ban texting while driving. ITD is in communication with the agencies to learn how the enforcement efforts are coming along.

The Office of Highway Safety has a grant with Twin Falls County to help with the creation of a distracted driving video which will be distributed statewide to all school, agencies and associations who have an interest. The video will be released and ready for distribution at the Highway Safety Summit, April 21st, in Pocatello.

Lane Departure Update

John Perry

September 2010 – February 2011 Update

Action items cover the SHSP Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Emergency Response, and Public Policy Strategies for the Lane Departure Focus Area.

Completed Actions

- Joint Safety Workshop (Oct10), Lane Departure Focus Group presentation
- Assist ITD with RFP review for FY11 Single Vehicle ROR Research Project
- Held 6 Monthly Lane Departure Focus Group meetings to work on action plan items
- High Visibility Enforcement discussions for ROR, related HVE's covers this
- WEB-CARS prevent crash data demos to ITD, Highway Districts, Law Enforcement Agencies
- Roadside objects, identified thru current processes
- Shoulder widths, identified thru current processes, new PMS/MMS will also help this
- Safety edge, ITD uses a tapered plant mix slope covers this
- Guardrail and end treatments, processes are in place to deal with this
- Sign Management System, improved through implementation of TAMS
- Sign Management System Cartograph User Training Complete, Jan10
- Chevrons, reviewed policy; processes are in place to deal with this
- Pavement markings, second application; cross district striping now allowed, processes in place

-Prepared Draft Road Safety Audit Manual and distributed to contacts for comment

Ongoing Actions

- Review of Roadway Safety Foundations “Recognize-React-Recover” DVD and distribution to SHSP Department of Education contacts
- WEB-CARS prevent crash data demos to ITD and Highway Districts, Law Enforcement Agencies
- Finalize Road Safety Audit Manual
- Developing maps for identifying safety corridors throughout Idaho
- Preparation of articles for the LHTAC/T2 Center Monthly Newsletter on Lane Departure items
- Preparation of a ROR Tool Box

Commercial Vehicle Report

Lt. Bill Reese

- 1) Total Commercial Vehicle fatalities in 2010 – **17**
 - a. Total in 2009 – 28
 - b. 2010 is the lowest number we have ever recorded.
- 2) Five years ago the ISP Commercial Vehicle Safety Division implemented a new Level III roadside inspection and enforcement program. Since that time we have focused more on driver violations and moving violations. These violations cause and/or contribute to crashes. We have also focused some of our directed enforcement in high commercial vehicle crash areas. In 2008, 2009, and 2010 we received a MCSAP Leadership award from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for our traffic enforcement effort. The awards state, “In recognition of the highest concentration of commercial vehicle traffic enforcement activity in fiscal year.....”.
- 3) We are hosting Teens and Trucks Safety Days on April 26 and 27 in Meridian. We will have Ada County Schools on one day and Canyon County Schools on the other day. We will have a variety of activities available to help educate students on the dangers of distracted driving, especially around commercial vehicles.
- 4) We were able to purchase a driving simulator with grant money. The driving simulator will be used during our Safety Days. It is portable and will be available for use in all of our regions.
- 5) We will be conducting a commercial vehicle seatbelt survey at four locations in 2011.
- 6) In 2011 we will be using our MCSAP incentive funds for focused enforcement on commercial vehicles operating in work zones with additional emphasis on commercial vehicle seatbelt use.
- 7) In 2011 we are planning three Targeting Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) directed patrols. Two in the Treasure Valley and one in Kootenai County in Region 1.
- 8) Two new proposed rule makings from the FMCSA will affect commercial vehicle safety. One rule making revamps the current hours of service rules and the other would require most companies, who drivers require logbooks, to start using electronic on board recording devices (EBOR’s) in lieu of paper logbooks.
- 9) The FMCSA has recently implemented a new Compliance, Safety, and Accountability (CSA) program. This new program is a new method of rating commercial carrier’s safety and fitness. Part of the program focuses on the driver and driver violations that cause and/or contribute to crashes. This should help identify unsafe drivers.
- 10) In 2011 we have four emphasis patrols scheduled around the state. These will take place on interstates and major transportation routes.
- 11) In 2011 we will also have six strike team deployments involving one sergeant and two or three officers. These deployments will focus on areas of the state that receive limited commercial vehicle enforcement. Some of these deployments will involve the ITD roving port of entry.

Youthful Drivers Sub-Committee

Chair: Brian Johns, State Department of Education

- I. Education:
 - a. Margaret Goertz continues to strengthen the “Alive at 25” program.
 - b. Brian Johns continues to strengthen the public Driver Education program.
 - c. Brian Johns has partnered with the STAR motorcycle training group and has sent a motorcycle safety video DVD to all 400 public driver education instructors.
 - d. Brian Johns has partnered with the ITD bike/ped coordinator and will be sending out a bicycle safety video to all 400 public driver education instructors. This video will educate drivers on how to interact safely with bicyclists.
- II. Enforcement:
 - a. Margaret Goertz continues to strengthen the “Alive at 25” program
 - b. Margaret Goertz continues to develop and manage youthful driver mobilizations.
- III. Engineering:
 - a. Margaret Goertz will be sharing lane departure data with her Alive at 25 instructors.
 - b. Brian Johns will be sharing lane departure data with the public driver education instructors.
- IV. EMS:
 - a. Brian Johns will be including the “ICE” program to the state’s public driver education curriculum.
 - b. Brian Johns will be partnering with trauma nurses to speak to driver education classes.
- V. Public Policy:
 - a. The committee will be looking at a law change in the future that would require driver education up to the age of 18, like most other states.
 - b. DMVs will be asking for a copy of the supervised driving log parents use during the six months of supervised driving immediately following driver education and part of the GDL program.